WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1.   For use in a video recording device capable of storing a

2 plurality of video programs on a disk drive, a video memory manager

3 comprising:

4   a video memory controller capable of detecting that said

5 disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a

6 next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,

7 in response to said detection, determines a first retention score

8 associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

9 a second retention score associated with a second one of said

10 plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second

11 retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first

12 and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video

13 memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

14 second video programs.

1 2.   The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein

2 said video memory controller replaces said deleted least desirable

3 video program with a program abstract identifying and describing

4 said deleted least desirable video program.

- 24 -

1   3.   The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein

2 said video memory controller compresses said least desirable video

3 program prior to deleting said least desirable video program.

1   4.   The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein

2 said video memory controller deletes said compressed least

3 desirable video program if said video memory controller determines

4 that said disk drive still does not contain sufficient storage

5 space to store said next-to-be-recorded program after compression

6 of said least desirable video program has occurred.

1   5.   The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein

2 said video memory controller determines said first and second

3 retention scores according to a plurality of factors associated

4 with said first and second video programs.

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf

1   6.   The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 5 wherein

2   said plurality of factors comprises at least one of:

3   a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first

4   and second video programs;

5   relative fairness of deleting said first video if said

6   first video is associated with a first user of said video recording

7   device and said second video is associated with a second user of

8   said video recording device;

9   relative freshness of said first and second video

10   programs;

11   relative durations of said first and second video

12   programs compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded

13   program;

14   relative similarity of a category of said first video

15   program and a category of said second video program compared to a

16   category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and

17   at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

18   with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

19   television series associated with said first video program has been

20   viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

21   user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

1   7.   A video recording device comprising:

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf

2   a disk drive capable of storing a plurality of video

3 programs;

4   a video recording controller capable of receiving

5 incoming video programs from an external source and storing said

6 received incoming video programs on said disk drive; and

7   a video memory controller capable of detecting that said

8 disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a

9 next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,

10 in response to said detection, determines a first retention score

11 associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

12 a second retention score associated with a second one of said

13 plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second

14 retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first

15 and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video

16 memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

17 second video programs.

1   8. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7

2 wherein said video memory controller replaces said deleted least

3 desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and

4 describing said deleted least desirable video program.

1   9. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf

2 wherein said video memory controller compresses said least

3 desirable video program prior to deleting said least desirable

4 video program.

1   10.   The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7

2 wherein said video memory controller deletes said compressed least

3 desirable video program if said video memory controller determines

4 that said disk drive still does not contain sufficient storage

5 space to store said next-to-be-recorded program after compression

6 of said least desirable video program has occurred.

1   11.   The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7

2 wherein said video memory controller determines said first and

3 second retention scores according to a plurality of factors

4 associated with said first and second video programs.

- 28 -

1 12. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 11

2 wherein said plurality of factors comprises at least one of:

3   a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first

4 and second video programs;

5   relative fairness of deleting said first video if said

6 first video is associated with a first user of said video recording

7 device and said second video is associated with a second user of

8 said video recording device;

9   relative freshness of said first and second video

10 programs;

11   relative durations of said first and second video

12 programs compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded

13 program;

14   relative similarity of a category of said first video

15 program and a category of said second video program compared to a

16 category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and

17   at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

18 with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

19 television series associated with said first video program has been

20 viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

21 user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

1 13. For use in a video recording device capable of storing a

- 29 -

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf

2 plurality of video programs on a disk drive, a method of managing

3 the plurality of stored video programs comprising the steps of:

4 detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient

5 storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

6 determining a first retention score associated with a

7 first one of the plurality of video programs;

8 determining a second retention score associated with a

9 second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first

10 and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining

11 the first and second video programs respectively; and

12 deleting a least desirable one of the first and second

13 video programs.

1 14. The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising

2 the step of replacing the deleted least desirable video program

3 with a program abstract identifying and describing the deleted

4 least desirable video program.

1 15. The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising

2 the step of compressing the least desirable video program prior to

3 the step of deleting the least desirable video program.

1 16. The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising

- 30 -

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf

2   the step of deleting the compressed least desirable video program

3   in response to a determination that the disk drive still does not

4   contain sufficient storage space to store the next-to-be-recorded

5   program after compression of the least desirable video program has

6   occurred.

1   17.   The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising

2   the sub-steps of determining the first and second retention scores

3   according to a plurality of factors associated with the first and

4   second video programs.

- 31 -

1   18. The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein the plurality

2   of factors comprises at least one of:

3   a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first

4   and second video programs;

5   relative fairness of deleting the first video if the

6   first video is associated with a first user of the video recording

7   device and the second video is associated with a second user of the

8   video recording device;

9   relative freshness of the first and second video

10   programs;

11   relative durations of the first and second video programs

12   compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program;

13   relative similarity of a category of the first video

14   program and a category of the second video program compared to a

15   category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and

16   at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

17   with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

18   television series associated with said first video program has been

19   viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

20   user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf

1   19. For use in a video recording device capable of storing a

2   plurality of video programs on a disk drive, a computer-readable

3   storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for

4   managing the plurality of stored video programs, the computer-

5   executable instructions comprising the steps of:

6   detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient

7   storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;

8   determining a first retention score associated with a

9   first one of the plurality of video programs;

10   determining a second retention score associated with a

11 second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first

12 and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining

13 the first and second video programs respectively; and

14   deleting a least desirable one of the first and second

15 video programs.

1   20. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in

2   Claim 19 further comprising the step of replacing the deleted least

3   desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and

4   describing the deleted least desirable video program.

- 33 -

1   21. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in

2 Claim 19 further comprising the step of compressing the least

3 desirable video program prior to the step of deleting the least

4 desirable video program.

1   22. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in

2 Claim 19 further comprising the step of deleting the compressed

3 least desirable video program in response to a determination that

4 the disk drive still does not contain sufficient storage space to

5 store the next-to-be-recorded program after compression of the

6 least desirable video program has occurred.

1   23. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in

2 Claim 19 further comprising the sub-steps of determining the first

3 and second retention scores according to a plurality of factors

4 associated with the first and second video programs.

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf

1   24. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in

2   Claim 23 wherein the plurality of factors comprises at least one

3   of:

4   a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first

5   and second video programs;

6   relative fairness of deleting the first video if the

7   first video is associated with a first user of the video recording

8   device and the second video is associated with a second user of the

9   video recording device;

10   relative freshness of the first and second video

11   programs;

12   relative durations of the first and second video programs

13   compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program;

14   relative similarity of a category of the first video

15   program and a category of the second video program compared to a

16   category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and

17   at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

18   with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

19   television series associated with the first video program has been

20   viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

21   user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

F:\WPDOCS\go\pv29goa0.dsr.rtf